

Arkwood, Inc. of Omaha

ARKANSAS GAZETTE
**EPA plans
to add site
in state to list**

GAZETTE STAFF AND UPI

The Environmental Protection Agency Thursday proposed expanding the Superfund toxic waste cleanup program by adding 38 more sites, including one in Arkansas, to its list of the worst hazard-

ous waste sites in the country.

The list now includes 850 proposed sites eligible for federal money that will finance most of the cleanup work. The 38 sites named Thursday will be evaluated to determine how contaminated materials could best be removed and how high they will rate on the EPA's cleanup list.

Arkwood, Inc., of Omaha (Boone County) closed in 1984 because of the sluggish market for the company's chemically treated fence posts and the cost of cleaning up the hazardous wastes cited by the EPA, said Bob Barker, an official

for Mass Merchandisers, Inc., of Harrison, owner of the Omaha plant and a similar one in Lamar (Johnson County).

Barker said the company had been working with the EPA's office in Arkansas since 1981 to clean up "mainly surface contamination" on parts of the plant's 10-acre grounds. He said chemicals from freshly treated bundles of posts dripped on the ground, causing the contamination. He said the site would probably be cleaned up soon without federal supervision. "We don't think it's a major catastrophe," he said.

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